



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

Public Library

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Cellist Charles Curtis to Perform in Free Central Library Concert *Program will Feature Bach's Suite in E-Flat Major for Solo Cello*

SAN DIEGO – The fifth concert of the 2008 Winter/Spring Concert Series of the City of San Diego Public Library will feature cellist Charles Curtis. The program will be held Sunday, March 16 at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, 820 E St., in downtown San Diego.

The program will include Johann Sebastian Bach's Suite in E-flat major, probably the most technically demanding of the six suites that the composer wrote for the solo cello around 1720, while serving as director of music in Cöthen, Germany. Bach's music for solo strings represents the high point of instrumental composition in the 18th century. The concert will include the following pieces:

Alfredo Piatti, Caprice no. 1 in G minor (1875)
Tobias Hume, *Touch me lightly; Captain Hume's galliard* (17th century)
Anonymous, *Woodycock* (17th century)
Sylvestro Ganassi, Four Ricercars (1542)
Guillaume de Machaut, Chansons (14th century)
Hugo Becker, *Forest Murmurs* (1910)
Johann Sebastian Bach, Suite in E-flat major, BWV 1010 (ca. 1720)

Charles Curtis has been a professor in the Music Department of the University of California, San Diego since Fall 2000. Previously he was principal cello of the Symphony Orchestra of the North German Radio in Hamburg, a faculty member at Princeton, the cellist of the Ridge String Quartet, and a sought-after chamber musician and soloist in the classical repertoire. He holds the Piatigorsky Prize of the New York Cello Society, and received prizes in the Naumburg, Geneva and Cassado international competitions. He has appeared as soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, the National Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Symphony Orchestra of

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Berlin, the NDR Symphony, the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Orquestra de la Maggio Musicale in Florence, the Janacek Philharmonic, as well as orchestras in Brazil and Chile; under the baton of distinguished conductors such as André Previn, Herbert Blomstedt, Max Rudolf, John Eliot Gardiner and Christof Eschenbach. His chamber music associations have taken him to the Marlboro, Ravinia, Wolf Trap, La Jolla Summerfest and Victoria Festivals, among many others. He has recorded and performed widely with soprano Kathleen Battle and harpsichordist Anthony Newman, as well as with jazz legends such as Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter and Brad Mehldau.

His work in recent years has focused on the music of American experimentalists La Monte Young, Alvin Lucier and Morton Feldman; his recordings of their works are considered definitive. An exceptional body of new solo works has been created expressly for Curtis, which he regularly performs at international venues. In recent years he has given solo concerts or led ensembles at the Schleswig Holstein Music Festival, the Maerzmusik Festival in Berlin, the Barbican Centre in London, the Grame in Lyon, the Darmstadt Festival, American Air in Brugge, the Kunsthalle Krems in Austria, and the Exposition of New Music in Brno. Last season he opened the Festival Jeunesse in Vienna with an acclaimed two-hour solo performance, and performed unaccompanied concerts in Latvia, Norway, Paris, Dijon and Berlin. This past summer he was featured soloist on the opening concert of the Ostrava New Music Days in the Czech Republic, performing Morton Feldman's *Cello and Orchestra* and Alvin Lucier's new cello concerto with the Janacek Philharmonic; in the following weeks he performed solo concerts in Oslo, Stavanger, Hamburg, Berlin, Brussels, Paris, Graz and Barcelona.

The concert is free and open to the public. Free parking is available at the Five Star Parking lot adjacent to the Library on Broadway and 8th. In addition, parking meters are not enforced on Sundays, and other pay parking lots are available in the vicinity of the library.

For further information, please call the Library's Art, Music and Recreation Section at 236-5810, or visit the Library web site at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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